

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-36 are currently pending. Independent claim 1 is currently amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 3 and, accordingly, claim 3 is cancelled. Claims 4, 5 and 17 accordingly are currently amended for proper dependency. Independent claim 19 is currently amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 21 and, accordingly, claim 21 is cancelled. Claims 22, 23 and 35 accordingly are currently amended for proper dependency. Claims 13 and 31 are amended for proper antecedent basis in accordance with the amendments to their independent base claims. Claim 2 is currently amended to correct a grammatical error and to better accord with Independent Claim 1 as currently amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims.

Listing of Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) An interlaced two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
 - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and ~~one or more~~ a plurality of first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction wherein the plurality of first connecting members are strap-like such that the width of each connecting member is greater than the thickness of each connecting member;
 - b) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and ~~one or more~~ a plurality of second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction,
wherein the plurality of second connecting members are strap-like such that the width of each connecting member is greater than the thickness of each connecting member, and
wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the plurality of connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the plurality of second connecting members, or extensions thereof; and
 - c) means for attaching the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the ~~one or more~~ plurality of second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting

members to the anchoring members forming an attached portion and a single bridging portion of the each individual connecting member of the one or more plurality of connecting members, the attached ~~portions~~portion of each connecting member being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging ~~portions~~portion of each connecting member having no apertures therein and spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members, the average width of the bridging ~~portions~~portion of each connecting member being less than the average width of the attached ~~portions~~portion such that the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first and second connecting members are sufficiently spaced-apart to facilitate fine adjustment of the first component relative to the second component for substantially parallel alignment of the edge of the first component with the edge of the second component during closure of the wound or incision.

- 2) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the width of the each attached portion is substantially constant.
- 3) (Cancelled)
- 4) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
- 5) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 6) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 7) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.

- 8) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 9) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 which is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 10) (Previously Presented) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the means for attaching connecting members to anchoring members is an adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the connecting members thus creating an adhesive-backed surface.
- 11) (Previously Presented) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein each adhesive-backed anchoring member comprises an adhesive-backed surface that is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is protected by one or more release liners.
- 12) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 11 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 13) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting adhesive-backed surfaces along the edge from which the ~~one or more~~ plurality of connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the adhesive-backed surfaces along the length of the edge of the anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the ~~one or more~~ plurality of connecting members extend.
- 14) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 13 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.

- 15)(Original) The two-component device of Claim 13 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 16)(Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 17)(Currently Amended) The two-component device of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 18)(Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.
- 19)(Currently Amended) A method for closing a laceration or incision, the method comprising:
- a) providing an interlaced two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
 - i) a first component comprising an adhesive-backed anchoring member and ~~one or more~~ a plurality of first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction wherein the plurality of first connecting members are strap-like such that the width of each connecting member is greater than the thickness of each connecting member;
 - ii) a second component comprising ~~[[a]]an~~ adhesive-backed anchoring member and ~~one or more~~ a plurality of second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction,
 - wherein the plurality of second connecting members are strap-like such that the width of each connecting member is greater than the thickness of each connecting member, and
 - wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the plurality of first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the plurality of second connecting members, or extensions thereof; and

- iii) means for attaching the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the ~~one or more~~ plurality of second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first connecting members and the ~~one or more~~ plurality of second connecting members to the second and first anchoring members, respectively, forming an attached portion and a single bridging portion of each individual connecting member of the one or more plurality of connecting members, the attached portion being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portion having no apertures therein and spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members, the average width of the bridging portion of each connecting member being less than the average width of the attached portion such that the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first and second connecting members are sufficiently spaced-apart to facilitate fine adjustment of the first component relative to the second component for substantially parallel alignment of the edge of the first component with the edge of the second component during closure of the wound or incision;
- b) attaching the first and second components to the skin on opposite sides of the laceration or incision, the edge of the first and second components from which the ~~one or more~~ plurality of connecting members extend, being the edge closest to the laceration or incision;
- c) closing the laceration or incision by adjusting the position of the first and second anchoring members relative to each other in both an X and a Y dimension; and
- d) fixing the relationship between the first and second anchoring members established in step c) by attaching the ~~one or more~~ plurality of first connecting members to the second anchoring member, and the ~~one or more~~ plurality of second connecting members to the first anchoring member.

20) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the width of the attached portions is substantially constant.

21) (Cancelled)

22) (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 21~~ Claim 19 wherein the pulling elements and anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.

23) (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 21~~ Claim 19 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of connecting members are removable following application of the device.

24) (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.

25) (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.

26) (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.

27) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the device is produced from a vapor-permeable material.

28) (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the means for attaching connecting members to anchoring members is adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the connecting members thus creating an adhesive-backed surface.

29) (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein wherein each adhesive-backed anchoring member comprises an adhesive-backed surface that is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is protected by one or more release liners.

- 30) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 31) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 30 wherein the adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting adhesive-backed surfaces along the edge from which the ~~one or more~~ plurality of connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the adhesive-backed surfaces along the length of the edge of the anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the ~~one or more~~ plurality of connecting members extend.
- 32) (Original) The method of Claim 31 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 33) (Original) The method of Claim 31 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 34) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 35) (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 24~~ Claim 19 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 36) (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.